

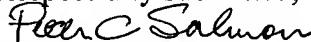
CONCLUSION

Examiner is thank for the office action issued on October 18, 2006. Claims 6, 7, 9-10 and 14-19 are pending and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Upon review of the Action, we note that the October 18, 2006 Action is in response to communication(s) filed June 15, 2006.

We respectfully request that the Examiner consider our Preliminary Amendment filed on August 3, 2006 by applicant, received by the U.S. Patent Office on August 4, 2006, and issue applicant a non-final action in response thereto.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of record are allowable and that the application should be passed to issue. Should the Examiner believe that the application is not in a condition for allowance and that a telephone interview would help further prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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